

City of Carlsbad

Public Works News

Spring 2008

Director's Report by Glenn Pruim



Ahhhh ... Spring at last. The weather's warming up. We've set the clocks ahead so we get plenty of daylight after work. The start of the baseball season is right around the corner. But, most importantly, we're in the middle of March Madness. I'm not talking about the NCAA Basketball Tournament (it would be hard to bet against North Carolina the way they're playing now). I'm talking about the March Madness we call goals and budget. This is the crazy time of year when the two dark forces align themselves and try to prevent us from getting useful work done. I know we will prevail, as we always do, and continue to provide top quality services while tending to these important administrative tasks. The budget belts will continue to tighten as we struggle to adjust to the worsening housing market, slow economy and State's disastrous fiscal situation.

Speaking of disasters, we've recently

declared two local emergencies to deal with infrastructure failures. Both situations resulted in sinkholes forming, causing damage to surrounding property. Emergency declarations, although not the preferred way to deal with issues, provide an opportunity to show how quickly we can address issues when not faced with the usual obstacles. I think we've handled both issues very well but these examples should serve as notice that our infrastructure is aging and needs extensive preventive maintenance and replacement.

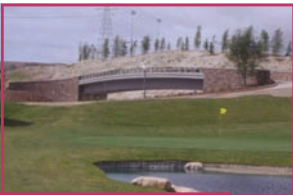
Although the winter rains were much needed and greatly appreciated, we're still in a state of drought conditions. The above average snowpack in the Sierras and in the Colorado River Basin will help but it will take a couple of more such seasons to overcome the extended drought that our

extended drought that our region has been experiencing. With rainfall comes runoff, and the rules applying to runoff just changed. Back in January of 2007, the Regional Water Quality Control Board passed a new stormwater permit that went into effect on March 24 of this year. Thanks to everybody that participated in the development of the City's new Jurisdictional Urban Runoff Management Plan, which is our document that details how we will implement the new permit.

Don't forget to start planning your summer vacations, it's not too far away. GO CUBS!!!

Small Pedestrian Bridge Award

The San Diego International Chapter of the American Concrete Institute announced the City of Carlsbad's College Boulevard Golf Cart Bridge as the recipient of the outstanding "Small



Pedestrian Bridge" award for 2007. The project was cited for innovative design and architectural enhancement. The award will be given to City officials on May 2, 2008 at the San Diego Chapter Awards Program in San Diego.

Notes from Environmental Programs

Spring Cleaning Made Easy

Once again it's time to clean out our homes and garages in preparation for spring. Did you know that many common products used daily require special handling for disposal and may not be discarded in sinks, storm drains or household trash? These items are classified as "household hazardous waste" (HHW) and are typically labeled Caution, Warning, Danger, Poison, Toxic, Flammable or Corrosive.

Common HHW Items: Automotive products (antifreeze, fluids, motor oil), batteries (home and car), cathode ray tubes (TVs, computer monitors), fluorescent light tubes and ballasts, herbicides, household cleaners, medicines, mercury (thermometers, thermostats), paints (latex and oil), pesticides, polishes and waxes, pool and spa chemicals, propane tanks from barbecues, small household appliances with LED displays

April Showers Bring . . .

The need to water our lawns less! Even with the perceived benefits of recent rainfall, we are on the verge of experiencing a water shortage. Limited local water sources, historic dry conditions and a recent court order that will reduce water deliveries to our area threaten our water supply and could very well lead to mandated water restrictions. Water conservation is a team sport and we are all the most valuable players!

Here are a few winning conservation actions that can reduce our water consumption and help conserve this precious resource: eliminate one irrigation cycle per week, turn off sprinklers during rain storms, repair leaks around pool or spa pumps, adjust sprinklers to reduce overspray, or use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.

Leadership Team Report by Greg Clavier



OK!! Where did the first three months of 2008 go? It seems like yesterday we were all wishing each other Happy New Year and now it's the end of March. To use a Lennon/McCartney lyric "I have a clue for you all" IT'S BEEN BUSY! As always, the beginning of a new calendar year signals the time for budget and CIP preparation, resourcing the proposed goals for FY 2008/2009 and not to mention racing down the home stretch towards target (hopefully) on our management goals for 2007/2008. All this and our daily operational responsibilities, no wonder time flies.

For the PWLT 2008 began with changes. Cheri Abbott, Public Works Business Partner for the past six years was reassigned to partner with the other major service areas in the city. Cheri has been a valued resource and contributor to the

PWLT, she will be missed. We all do wish her well with her new assignment. With Cheri's departure Donna Hernandez has been assigned to be the Human Resources Business Partner for Public Works. Donna has jumped right in, participating with the PWLT and also working with various Public Works teams on different projects. Donna brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from the private sector. As Donna is finding out the Public Works Department is a unique, diverse, and dedicated work group that may seem a bit challenging at times, however providing the necessary high quality services to operate and maintain our City. We all are happy to have Donna as part of our team.

With all the negative news headlines regarding the nationwide financial crisis, it's no surprise that we are all facing challenging times. This has definitely affected the City of Carlsbad's budget policy and parameters for FY 2008/2009. The PWLT, working with the support of staff had to make difficult and sound budget decisions as we all navigate through these uncertain times. Carlsbad has always prided itself on making wise and prudent financial decisions, as hard as it may be we all need to pull together,

tighten our belts and work through this.

With the PWLT commitment to continually improve communications our PW Director Glenn Pruim has been conducting group focus meetings. The purpose of these discussions is to hear from the Director on topics and issues that may have an impact on the PW Department or specific work groups. The feedback has been positive. Meeting with the individual work groups allows for more direct interaction and an opportunity to talk directly with Glenn. Speaking of communication, the PWLT recently conducted a survey to determine if our efforts for improvement have been successful and if not where do we need to improve. As soon as the survey information is tabulated we will report out on the results. Thank you to all who participated.

As the year progresses the PWLT will continue to work together to develop or improve on certain areas that affect all of Public Works, such as technology, employee development, communication, customer service, and service delivery. We all look forward to working with each and every one of the Public Works Team to continue to provide top quality service to the citizens of Carlsbad.

405 Oak... The Place to BEE by Heidi Versteeg



"Oak Folks" have always proclaimed 405 Oak as the place to be. On March 3, this was confirmed when a swarm of honey bees tried to

make it their new home by descending upon Street Supervisor Nick Roque's truck. Although "Oak Folks" are typically hospitable, this was not to BEE the case this day. Not wishing to harm the bees, the "Oak Folks" gathered some tools of encouragement...a metal trash can, bundles of twine, a lid, gloves, a leaf blower, and a fire extinguisher. The smoke from a small, contained, smoldering fire was enough to drive them out of the passenger

seat and in search of a new, more suitable home. With some powerful air fresheners, Nick's truck was back to BEEing ok again. If you have a problem with bees, please contact Brother Blaise at Prince of Peace Monastery, 760-967-4200, for humane bee removal.



Dates to Remember

April

April Fools Day	1st
Tax Day	15th
HHW Collection Event	19th
Earth Day	22nd
Arbor Day	25th

May

Cinco De Mayo	5th
Mother's Day	11th
Public Works Week	18-24
PW Fair	21st
PW Luncheon	22nd
Memorial Day	26th

June

Flag Day	14th
Father's Day	15th
First Day of Summer	20th

New Licenses

Brandon Miles recently passed the Professional Engineer exam in Traffic Engineering. He is now duly licensed in the State of California as a Professional Engineer in Civil Engineering and Traffic Engineering. Boy has Brandon been busy the past few months!



Jacob Moeder passed the Professional Engineering exam, last October and is now a licensed Civil Engineer in the State of California. This is a major milestone and great achievement for any Engineer. Even more impressive is that he passed the 2-day exam on his first attempt. A very small percentage of engineers pass the exam on the first try. Jacob also likes hot tamales.

Public Works Week

This year's Public Works week will be from May 18th to the 24th. Like last year, the PW Department will be hosting a Public Works Fair for school children on Wednesday, May 21st and the Public Works Apprecia-

tion Luncheon on Thursday, May 22nd. If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please contact Bonnie Elliot or Jayme Foster to sign up. Stay tuned for the next newsletter for highlights and photos of the event.

Citizens Academy Spring 2008

The Spring Citizen's Academy was on Thursday, March 20th. All 44 Citizens that were enrolled attended. Presenters included Glenn Pruim, Bob Johnson, Elaine Lukey, Cari Dale, Greg Clavier, and Linda Kermott.

The Citizens had many questions and they were provided with very informative answers. Some of the topics that the attendees found most informative were: Desalination, the Buena Vista Lagoon Spill details, and

mostly with the overall size and responsibilities of the Departments that make up Public Works. From the comments that they gave us in surveys, the Citizens were exceptionally impressed with our politeness and show of pride in the work that we do.

The Public Works Department would like to thank all of the employees, as well as the presenters, who volunteered their time to participate in this event.

Fleet PM Schedule

The Preventive Maintenance Schedule is posted monthly on the Intranet (<http://cityweb/>).

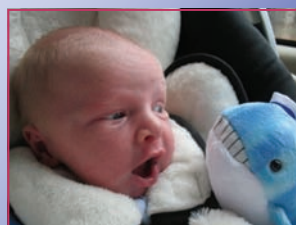
Please remember to check the PM schedule for the status of your vehicles and equipment.

Arrivals - Congratulations to the new Dads!



Lyla Jordan was born on December 9, 2007 to the proud parents of Jay Jordan and Kayla.

Ethan Koa Miles was born on February 13, 2008 to the proud parents of Brandon and Jessica Miles.



Spotlight - Karl Kettler



City Stuff

How long have you worked at the City of Carlsbad?
1 year 8 months

What is your official position/title?
Maintenance Worker II

What do you do on a daily basis—describe your job?
Signs, signs...everywhere signs...
I design, fabricate, install, clean, maintain signs throughout the City

What is your favorite aspect of your job?
I love to work in different places... inside and outside. I have a dynamic work environment

What office do you work out of?
Oak-Sign Shop

What's the strangest thing that's happened to you while working for the City?
One day, I was removing graffiti from a sign in the intersection of Cannon and Car Country Drive. A lady stopped her car in the middle of the intersection and asked me if I wanted a breakfast sandwich.

What is your motto/what words of wisdom do you have for someone starting out in their career?
To thine own self be true.

On the lighter side

Where were you born/where did you grow up?
I was born in Orange County and grew up in Arrowbear

What is your Favorite movie?
"Braveheart"

What is your favorite place to eat in Carlsbad?
Any Sushi place

What CD/MP3 is in your player right now?
Ministry-Bob Dylan cover song Lay, Lady, Lay

Employee Watercooler

New Employees

Congratulations to our most recent new hires.

Welcome to Public Works!!!



Thomas Elg
Maintenance
Worker I
(Parks)



James Gusman
Public Works
Supervisor
(M&O)



Robert Slempla
Public Works
Inspector II
(M&O)



Walter Wynnchok
Utility Worker I
(M&O)



Doug Bilse
Senior Civil
Engineer
Traffic



Carlton Urban
Deputy City
Engineer
Traffic



Steve McSpadden
Cross Connection
Control Technician
(M&O)

Not Pictured:

William Michael Divine, Meter Services Worker I (M&O)
Raymond Martinez, Meter Service Worker I (M&O)

Promotions

Clayton Dobbs, Public Works Supervisor
Casey Arndt, Construction Manager
Dale Schuck, Public Works Superintendent

Reclassifications

James Cochand, Building Maintenance Worker II
Esequiel Perez, Equipment Technician II
David Rick, Associate Engineer

Career Opportunities

With employee retirements and other changes, there may be career opportunities in the months ahead... keep your eyes open for job opportunities.

For more information, please contact Human Resources at 602-2440 or visit the City's Job webpage at <http://www.carlsbadca.gov/hr/jobs2.html>

Newsletter Contributors

Glenn Pruim, Greg Clavier, Jayme Foster, Laura Branca, Sandra Abbott, Heidi Versteeg, John Cahill, Rose Fonseca, Brandon Miles



Spotlight - Elaine Lukey



*"Okay, under duress,
I'll agree to this
interview if you promise
not to ask me about the
City's Stormwater
JURMP."*

How long have you
worked at the City?
5 years, but it feels like 25

What do you do on a daily basis—describe your job?
Catch and release grenades, use the fire extinguisher
a lot-I have one on my belt

What is your favorite aspect of your job?
Well, aside from the great people I work with, I'm
quite enamored by the complexity and power of
natural systems, so I am hopeful that some small
shred of what I do will help keep them around for my
kids enjoyment.

What office do you work out of?
Environmental Programs at Faraday



What is your official
position/title?
A tree hugging juggler

What's the strangest thing
that's happened to you
while working for the City?
I now like donuts and I've
gotten more grey hair.



(Gasp) Do you think they are related?

What is your motto/what words of wisdom do you
have for someone starting out in their career?
If you say you are going to do something, do it.
And do it right

On the lighter side

Where were you born/where did you grow up?
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. It's in Canada. Don't try
to pronounce it.

What is your Favorite movie?
Hmm, "Usual Suspects" jumps to mind, but I think
my final answer would have to be whatever I've just
seen, in this case "Horton Hears a Who"

What is your favorite place to eat in Carlsbad?
Any place that doesn't have chicken nuggets on the
menu and serves drinks in real glasses

What CD/MP3 is in your player right now?
Black Eyed Peas

If you would like to contribute to the PW Newsletter, please contact Jayme Foster via email or call 602-2735.